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UNCLAS PARIS 001880

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SUBJECT: FRENCH RESPONSE ON ICJ NOMINATION

REF: STATE 40125

¶1. We delivered to the MFA's International Organizations directorate March 10 a diplomatic note in support of Judge Buergenthal's nomination, together with the judge's curriculum vitae. Poloff met March 21 with MFA IO advisor Didier Gonzalez, congratulating the GoF on the appointment to the ICJ of Ronny Abraham, and noting that the U.S. National Group had been pleased to support Abraham's candidacy.

¶2. Poloff urged that France support and co-nominate Judge Buergenthal's nomination in accordance with past practice of support among permanent members of the Security Council for each other's candidates. Gonzalez replied that while the GoF was still looking at other candidates for positions on the ICJ nominated by other countries, France would support Judge Buergenthal's nomination in accordance with past practice.

Leach